



Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) FDEP Rule 62-345 F.A.C.

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Chronology



- **July 2008 – Initial Board briefing on UMAM**
- **2008/2009 – Coordination meetings and teleconferences with Audubon; FDEP also included**
- **May – December 2010 - UMAM Field Training**
- **September 2010 – Update to the Board**
- **September 30, 2010 – Interagency meeting with other districts and FDEP**
- **November 2010 – Receipt of Audubon report on analysis of District's use of UMAM**
- **February 2011 – Update to the Board**

Use of UMAM for wetland assessments



- **UMAM is a framework for assessing wetland functions using reasonable scientific judgment**
- **UMAM rule mandated by state law and developed by FDEP for use by all state/local agencies**
- **Any guidance documents must come from FDEP and not the District**
- **Older mitigation banks may have used other assessment methods (WRAP/WATER) that are allowed under UMAM rule**

Rule provisions to consider



- **UMAM does not require functions to be measured or mitigated individually**
- **UMAM score sheets are in the rule. Other scoring requirements cannot be imposed.**
- **UMAM allows for other habitat types as mitigation if they are similar in function or will provide greater long-term benefit**
- **UMAM was modified in 2007 to better reflect the review of “native community type the site most closely resembles”**
- **Upland preservation/enhancement in conjunction with wetlands is allowed; will result in less than 1:1 wetland replacement**

Concerns with Audubon recommendations



- Mitigation banks generally support a mosaic of habitats including uplands. If bank credits are broken down to FLUCCS codes, diversity would be lost and no uplands would be included
- Proposed water storage tracking sheets; require separate data collection & calculation of this function
- Assumes only short or long hydroperiod wetlands with 6 month break point – not accurate; need at least three categories
- Does not consider that many wetlands are combination of habitats (lumpers vs splitters for reporting purposes)

Areas of Agreement with Audubon



- **Ongoing Internal/External UMAM training sessions conducted – more planned each year**
- **Use of more descriptive Florida Land Use Classification Codes System (FLUCCS) – ensure accurate data entry**
- **Ensure impacts to surface waters which provide habitat for listed wetland dependent species are coordinated with wildlife agencies for appropriate mitigation measures**
- **Database tracking of hydroperiod types for wetland impacts can be done if we agree on definitions; requires programming resources (unbudgeted)**

Conclusion



- District has considered Audubon's proposals and will continue ongoing training for staff and the regulated public to ensure consistency
- District is open to implementing database tracking of hydroperiod types once programming resources are budgeted
- Coordinated with other Districts and FDEP on Audubon's concerns. No changes to UMAM to be proposed at this time.
- Any changes to UMAM would need to be pursued through legislature and FDEP; requires statewide applicability/implementation.